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Council



**ANNUAL
HEALTH
REPORT
1950**


W. J. BIRCHALL,
M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Ellesmere Port Urban District Council



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INTRODUCTION

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Ellesmere Port Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1950.

The local statistics relating to health are generally satisfactory, and compare favourably with the National figures.

A summary of the chief items is given below, together with those for England and Wales, and the smaller towns.

The Crude Death Rate is 8.78 per 1,000 estimated population, compared with 7.12 in 1949. The Death Rate for England and Wales is 11.6, and for 148 smaller towns the rate is 11.6.

The Birth Rate is 19.12 per 1,000 population; in 1949 the rate was 21.5. The Rate for England and Wales is 15.8; and for 148 smaller towns the rate is 16.7.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 35.8 per 1,000 live births, compared with 31.2 for 1949. The Rate for England and Wales is 29.8, and for 148 smaller towns 29.4.

There were no deaths of mothers associated with child-birth.

No outbreaks of food poisoning occurred.

Measles (327) and Whooping Cough (134) were prevalent throughout the year in much the same way as in 1949. Incidence of other Infectious Diseases was low. Two cases of Diphtheria were notified. Two fatal cases of poliomyelitis occurred in Clatterbridge Hospital, one a female child and the other a young adult female.

Forty-five new cases of Tuberculosis were reported, of which 38 were Pulmonary and 7 Non-Pulmonary; in 1949 there were 25 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 5 Non-Pulmonary notified.

From the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, it will be noted that housing problems and overcrowding continue to absorb the time and energy of the staff. Two of the former military camps used for human habitation have been closed down. The one remaining site should not be used any longer than is absolutely essential, as conditions are sub-standard in character and are not conducive to satisfactory living accommodation.

A great deal of important work has been, and is being undertaken in respect of the supervision and control of food premises, particularly with the coming into operation of the food byelaws; and much still remains to be done in this direction. Apart from the education of the food handler, a great deal of publicity and propaganda is required for the general public, who can assist in a large measure towards the hygienic handling of foodstuffs.

During the year arrangements were made at one of the local cinemas for the showing of the film "Another Case of Food Poisoning."

The formation of a standing Committee from the various food trades, together with members of the Health Committee, is to be welcomed and good progress should result.

Regular inspection of foodstuffs, sampling of milk and ice-cream have been carried out during routine work. It will be noted that a high proportion of the samples of milk and ice-cream taken for examination were satisfactory and passed the prescribed test.

The bulk of the milk supply to this area is either Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested or T.T. Pasteurised.

The need to continue activities in respect of the supervision and control of food premises is important; and the benefits of the work are immeasurable in the control of food infections, which to-day have become a national problem.

It is inevitable that with the rapid growth of the District now taking place, the responsibilities of the department increase in many respects in the environmental field of public health work.

Included at the end of this Report is an extract from my Annual Report as Divisional Medical Officer, on the Personal Health Services operating on behalf of the County Council in the Ellesmere Port Division.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation of the support received from the Members of the Public Health Committee, and the assistance of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the staff of the Public Health Department, in compiling this Report, and their co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

WALTER J. BIRCHALL.

Medical Officer of Health.

Ellesmere Port Urban District Council

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1950

The Urban District of Ellesmere Port includes the parishes of Great Stanney, Great Sutton, Ince, Childer Thornton, Little Sutton and Hooton.

Administrative Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

E. TUFT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

J. P. GODDARD, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,

R. K. FRANCIS, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Clerk: G. POWELL.

Shorthand-Typists: (Part-time)

Mrs. B. E. WOODHOUSE, Mrs. B. M. PERCIVAL,

Clerk-Typist: Miss K. E. EVANS.

Statistics and Social Conditions

Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32,110
Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,144
Number of houses and flats in the area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,354
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£217,447
Sum represented by the Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£835

The Natural increase in Population (that is excess of births over deaths) is shewn in the following tables.

Natural Increase per 1,000			Natural Increase per 1,000		
Year	Population	Pop.	Year	Population	Pop.
1935	24,840	9.7	1943	27,560	15.5
1936	25,100	10.9	1944	27,220	13.44
1937	25,610	8.9	1945	27,160	10.9
1938	26,030	7.03	1946	28,740	12.49
1939	26,920	11.75	1947	29,670	15.9
1940	28,160	9.8	1948	30,860	13.3
1941	28,530	9.25	1949	31,290	10.88
1942	27,950	11.16	1950	32,110	10.33

The Natural increase in Population (that is excess of births over deaths) 1935-1950 (England and Wales).

Per 1,000 Population							Per 1,000 Population						
Year							Year						
1935	...	...	...	...	...	2.9	1943	...	...	...	...	...	4.4
1936	...	...	...	...	...	2.7	1944	...	...	...	...	...	6.0
1937	...	...	...	...	...	2.7	1945	...	...	...	...	...	4.7
1938	...	...	...	...	...	3.5	1946	...	...	...	...	...	7.6
1939	...	...	...	...	...	2.9	1947	...	...	...	...	...	8.5
1940	...	...	...	...	...	0.3	1948	...	...	...	...	...	7.1
1941	...	...	...	...	...	1.3	1949	...	...	...	...	...	5.0
1942	...	...	...	...	...	4.2	1950	...	...	...	...	...	4.2

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1950

(Compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General)

LIVE BIRTHS

								Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	293	290	583
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	14	31
-								—	—	—
								310	304	614
-								—	—	—

Birth rate	Corrected	Comparability
per 1,000 Population 19.12.	Birth rate 19.31.	Factor 1.01.

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (1950) in 148 smaller towns (population 25,000—50,000) — 16.7.

STILL BIRTHS

								Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	6	14
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
								—	—	—
								8	6	14
								—	—	—

Still birth rate 22.29 per 1,000 total live and still births or .43 per 1,000 of the population.

The average number of births per annum in the years 1935—1949 was 574.

TABLE OF NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES, 1935—1949.

1935	470	18.9			
1936	503	20.04	1943	603	21.87
1937	483	18.86	1944	611	22.44
1938	476	18.28	1945	555	20.43
1939	543	20.25	1946	635	22.09
1940	566	20.09	1947	730	24.60
1941	565	19.80	1948	665	21.54
1942	538	19.96	1949	673	21.50

Birth Rate, England and Wales, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	15.8
Birth Rate, England and Wales, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	16.7
Birth Rate, Administrative County of Cheshire, 1949	...	...				15.6

DEATHS

Males ... 166 Females ... 116 Total ... 282.
 Death Rate 8.78. Corrected Death Rate 11.76. Comparability factor 1.34.

TABLE OF NUMBER OF DEATHS AND DEATH RATES,
 1935—1949.

Year	Number	Death Rate	Year	Number	Death Rate
1935	229	9.2	1943	276	10.01
1936	227	9.0	1944	245	9.0
1937	254	9.91	1945	252	9.28
1938	293	11.26	1946	276	9.60
1939	229	8.50	1947	257	8.66
1940	291	10.3	1948	253	8.19
1941	301	10.5	1949	223	9.54
1942	246	8.79			

The average number of deaths per annum in the years 1935-1949 was 254.

Death Rate — England and Wales 11.6 per 1,000 population.
 Death Rate — 148 smaller towns 11.6 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

						Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	Rate per 1,000 live Births
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	—	—

The figures for England and Wales were:—

											Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.09.
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.15.
											—
											0.24.
											—

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births	22	35.83.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	21	36.03
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	1	32.25

The figures for England and Wales were:—

All England and Wales	29.8
148 smaller towns (estimated resident population 25,000—50,000 Census 1931)	29.4
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	33.8
London (Administrative County)	26.3

TABLE OF INFANT MORTALITY 1935—1949

Rate per 1,000 Births						Rate per 1,000 Births					
1935	44.6	1943	71.3								
1936	51.7	1944	34.3								
1937	66.2	1945	46.85								
1938	48.3	1946	55.11								
1939	58.93	1947	56.16								
1940	63.3	1948	33.08								
1941	72.9	1949	31.20								
1942	35.8										
Deaths from Measles (all ages) 1											
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 1											
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea 3											
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 45											

Causes of Deaths

		<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>T</i>
1.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	4	4	8
2.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	—	1
3.	Syphilis	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	1	1
6.	Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	2	2
8.	Measles	—	1	1
9.	Other infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10.	Cancer of the Stomach and Duodenum	4	3	7
11.	Cancer of the Lung Bronchus	8	—	8
12.	Cancer of the Breast	—	4	4
13.	Cancer of the Uterus	—	4	4
14.	Other forms of Cancer	15	10	25
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—	1
16.	Diabetes	1	3	4
17.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	15	17	32
18.	Heart Disease	26	9	35
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	—	3
20.	Other Heart Diseases	16	28	44
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	12	6	18
22.	Influenza	—	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	8	3	11
24.	Bronchitis	7	2	9
25.	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	2	1	3
26.	Ulcer of the Stomach Duodenum	2	—	2
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	3	—	3
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	3	5
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostrate	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	4	2	6
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	18	10	28
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	10	—	10
34.	All other Accidents	2	1	3
35.	Suicide	1	1	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
<i>TOTAL</i>		166	116	282

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

The personnel comprising the administrative staff, together with their qualifications, is indicated at the beginning of this report.

The following services are available:—

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Chemical analysis of water and Bacteriological examinations of water and milk are carried out at regular intervals. Bacteriological examinations of throat swabs for suspected cases of Diphtheria, and the necessary investigation of any serious Infectious Disease epidemic are undertaken according to requirements.

The Public Health Laboratory, which has been organised under the National Health Service Act, 1946, under the direction of the Medical Research Council, and has local laboratories, now undertakes (since July, 1948) free bacteriological examinations of milk, water and other specimens for Local Authorities. The Laboratory for this area is situated at Birkenhead.

Food and drugs administration is carried out by the County Council and their Officers submit samples for examination by the County Analyst.

The number of swabs examined for B. Diphtheria was one.

There was one throat swab, which was negative.

The number of specimens of sputa examined for B. Tuberculosis in the County Laboratory was two. Of this total one was returned positive and one negative.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Since the 5th July, 1948, re-organisation of Ambulance services has taken place in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act. The Local Health Authority (Cheshire County Council) is now responsible for these services and has a scheme of Divisional administration by local Committees throughout the County. These Committees are responsible to the County Council for running the local Ambulance Service. There is now no special provision for special Ambulances for the removal of Infectious cases to hospital with the exception of Smallpox.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Re-organisation of the District Nursing Service has also occurred under the Act. The Local Health Authority has now taken over these services from the District Nursing Association, though the service continues to operate in much the same way as previously.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, York Road, Ellesmere Port, and at the Methodist Hall, Little Sutton. The clinic previously held at the Railway Inn, Little Sutton, was transferred as above during the year.

An additional Child Welfare Clinic was opened at the Overpool Community Centre in October and is held at fortnightly intervals.

Orthopaedic Aural, Ante-natal and Post-natal clinics are organised under the supervision of Specialists.

A school clinic, with Dental and Ophthalmic Services, is also provided by the County Council and is held in the Welfare Centre.

HOSPITALS.

The Clatterbridge General Hospital serves the Urban District for most purposes.

Maternity: Provision is made for maternity accommodation in the Clatterbridge General Hospital, where the patients are under the supervision of the consulting Obstetrician who attends the Ante-natal clinics. In this block there are 54 beds.

In addition there is a separate Maternity Home at Heswall.

The services of the consultant Obstetrician are available at the Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics held twice weekly at the Welfare Centre, and at any time if required in an emergency by a general practitioner in the district.

Children: Facilities exist for convalescent treatment of children needing such and seen by the Medical Officer at the Welfare Centre. When such cases occur every endeavour is made to get them accommodated in the West Kirby Convalescent Home.

Scabies: No cases were reported during the year.

Fevers: The Isolation Hospital at Clatterbridge (transferred to the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board on the 5th July, 1948) receives infectious fever cases from the Urban District.

The accommodation provided is as follows:—

24 beds for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

12 beds in 11 cubicles for isolation.

2 sidwards of 4 beds to be used as required.

Chester and District Hospital Management Committee—Ellesmere Port Hospital: On the 5th July, 1948, the Management of this Hospital was transferred from a Board of Management to the Chester and District Hospital Management Committee who are responsible under the National Health Service Act.

This hospital contains 40 beds and 10 cots and continues to offer in-patient treatment for both medical and surgical cases, this being in addition to the usual out-patients clinics.

MIDWIVES.

There are eight midwives practising in the District, five of whom are employed by the County Council.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The prevalence of Infectious Diseases during the period 1939—1950 is shewn in the following table which gives the case rate per 1,000 of the population.

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Enteric Fever	Erysip- elas	Measles	Whooping Cough
1939	3.30	2.08	0.14	0.33		
1940	1.59	1.13	0.03	0.31	1.34	0.03
1941	1.12	0.7	0.07	0.14	9.07	0.14
1942	1.14	5.90	0.00	0.03	1.57	0.07
1943	3.08	12.51	0.00	0.00	10.26	0.18
1944	2.56	2.09	0.00	0.07	6.62	0.47
1945	9.46	0.73	0.00	0.22	10.19	0.00
1946	3.47	0.20	0.00	0.20	6.38	0.24
1947	1.85	0.30	0.03	0.20	5.12	0.20
1948	1.32	0.16	0.00	0.20	2.68	1.74
1949	1.60	0.00	0.06	0.09	10.87	4.12
1950	1.21	0.06	0.00	0.09	10.18	4.17

The corresponding notification rates for England and Wales are as follows:—

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Enteric Fever	Erysip- elas	Measles	Whooping Cough
1939	1.89	1.14	0.04	0.34		
1940	1.63	1.16	0.07	0.33	10.24	1.34
1941	1.47	1.25	0.03	0.30	10.33	4.39
1942	2.19	1.05	0.01	0.30	7.46	1.73
1943	3.01	0.88	0.02	0.31	9.88	2.54
1944	2.40	0.58	0.01	0.29	4.16	2.49
1945	1.89	0.46	0.02	0.25	11.67	1.64
1946	1.38	0.28	0.03	0.22	3.92	2.28
1947	1.37	0.13	0.02	0.19	9.41	2.22
1948	1.73	0.08	0.02	0.21	9.34	3.42
1949	1.63	0.04	0.02	0.19	8.95	2.39
1950	1.50	0.02	0.00	0.17	8.39	3.60

There were no notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia in 1950. The corresponding notification rate for England and Wales per 1,000 birth (live and still) is 5.81.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1950

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever... ..	39	29	—
Diphtheria	2	2	—
Pneumonia	22	2	—
Whooping Cough	134	2	—
Erysipelas	3	1	—
Dysentery	4	1	—
Measles	327	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
	533	38	2

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
			Non-				Non-	
	Pulmonary M. F.		Pulmonary M. F.		Pulmonary M. F.		Pulmonary M. F.	
0— 1 year ...	— —		— —		— —		— —	
1— 5 years ...	1 —		1 —		— —		1 —	
5—15 years ...	1 1		1 2		1 —		— —	
15—25 years ...	4 8		— —		— —		— —	
25—35 years ...	5 3		— —		1 2		— —	
35—45 years ...	4 3		1 1		— —		— —	
45—55 years ...	2 1		— 1		1 —		— —	
55—65 years ...	2 1		— —		— 1		— —	
65 Upwards ...	1 1		— —		1 —		— —	
	20 18		3 4		4 3		1 —	

Sanitary Circumstances

WATER SUPPLY.

The mains of the West Cheshire Water Board supply the entire area and from them there is a plentiful supply of excellent water.

The supply is laid into the houses with the following exceptions: a pair of cottages at Netherpool by one standpipe, a bungalow and two cottages at Great Sutton by one standpipe and a house in Little Sutton which obtains its supply from a private well. A number of houses in the Parish of Ince also obtain water through standpipes, the remainder having a piped supply laid into the houses.

The water throughout the district is in a piped supply from the pumping stations at Hooton, Prenton and Mouldsworth. At the Hooton station the water goes through the softening process, but at Prenton and Mouldsworth softening operations have been temporarily suspended.

During the year 83 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and 15 samples for Chemical Analysis from the flamed tap in the softening house of the three pumping stations.

The following are the results of a sample of water taken for Bacteriological examination from the pumping station at Prenton on the 8th August, 1950, and this is a fair specimen of the average result from all 83 samples throughout the year.

Similarly appended is a copy of the analyst's report on the Chemical analysis of a sample taken from the pumping station at Mouldsworth on the 18th September, 1950, here again this is a satisfactory sample which does not differ in any major respect from the other 15 samples for chemical analysis made during the year, except that all the samples taken from the Mouldsworth and Prenton Pumping Stations were hard in character, though not to a degree which could be considered unsatisfactory.

Bacteriological Report on the Examination of a Sample of Water

Received 9th August, 1950, from the West Cheshire Water Board.

Labelled: Prenton Pumping Station, flamed tap in No. 2 House. (Softening suspended).

Date: 8/8/50. 3-40 p.m. Taken by: C. Hardman.

Witness: W. Leyland. Signed: C. Hardman.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C in one day 0.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C in two days 0.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 20°C in three days 0.

Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after two days incubation at 37°C (Presumptive Bacillus Coli Test) Absent from 100ml.

Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli Absent from 100ml.

Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes) Absent from 100ml.

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed): Gordon Miles,

For the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Chemical Analysis on the Examination of a Sample of Water

Analysis of a sample of water received on the 19/9/50, from the West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Mouldsworth Pumping Station. Flamed tap in softening house. Raw water before chlorination.

Taken by: C. Hardman. Witness: S. Crawford.

Date: 18/9/50; 12-45 p.m.

Chemical Results in parts per Million

Appearance	... ..	Bright with a very slight deposit of mineral debris.
Colour	... ..	Nil. Odour: Nil.
Reaction ph.	... ..	7.7. Free Carbondioxide 6.
Electric Conductivity at 200C	...	1100.
Total Solids, 1800C	... ..	730.
Chlorine in Chlorides	... ..	232.
Nitrogen in Nitrates	... ..	2.0. Nitrates—Less than 0.01.
Hardness: Permanent	... ..	105. (— Grains per Gallon).
Temporary	... ..	195. (— Grains per Gallon).
Total	... ..	300. (— Grains per Gallon).
Metals	... ..	Iron 0.12; other metals absent.
Free Ammonia	... ..	— Ammoniacal Nitrogen 0.007
Albuminoid Ammonia	... ..	— Albuminoid Nitrogen 0.000.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 800F	...	0.000.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals, apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but not excessively so and it contains no excess in salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed): Gordon Miles.

The following information has been supplied by the Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board.

(1) *Particulars of any new sources of Public Supply.*

New Borehole (No. 6) in commission at Hooton since June, 1948, and about 850,000 gallons per day obtained from same by temporary pumping plant. A further adjacent new Borehole (No. 7) has been completed and water was first put into service from same in June, 1950, and the average daily quantity from this new bore is now about 1,100,000 gallons per day.

(2) *Improvements to existing sources of public supply.*

Chemical and Bacteriological Reports, throughout the year, have been of satisfactory order, and distribution has been maintained throughout the District.

(3) *Important Extension of Mains.*

Housing sites within the area of administration of your Council comprising the following estates:—

- (a) Wolverham.
- (b) Stanney.
- (c) Orchard Farm.
- (d) Rivacre.

(4) *Have pipe supplies been satisfactory in quantity and quality?*

There has been, in some cases there still exists, a large demand for metered trade supplies, which has in some cases caused diminution in pressures but, generally speaking, relative to the areas with which you are concerned the answer to this question is in the affirmative.

(5) *Is any part of the District in need of an improved water supply?*

Pressure fluctuations were experienced for some time in a small section of the Whitby area, but since the installation of a new connection near the Sportsman's Arms, no further reports have been received of pressure fluctuations, and concerning the water supply throughout Ellesmere Port in general, there have not been any complaints received, excepting occasional complaints regarding the hardness of the water.

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Cheshire County Council had kindly supplied me with the following particulars of samples obtained in the Urban District of Ellesmere Port and forwarded to the Public Analyst during the year ended 31st December, 1950.

LIST OF SAMPLES OBTAINED IN THE ELLESMERE PORT URBAN DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

Article.	Number obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Butter	2	—
Brandy	1	—
Corn Ointment	1	—
Cooking Fat... ..	2	—
Cheese	2	—
Fish Cakes	2	—
Glycerine	1	—
Ice Cream	5	—
Jelly Crystals	2	—
Jam	2	—
Lemon Cheese	1	1
Milks	54	5
Milk — Condensed	2	—
Margarine	2	—
Olive Oil	1	—
Pepper Compound	1	—
Rum	1	—
Sausage... ..	5	—
Vinegar — Malt	1	—
Whisky	2	—
	—	—
	90	6
	—	—

PARTICULARS OF SAMPLES NOT UP TO STANDARD.

No.	Article.	Result of Analysis.	Remarks.
1.	Milk	1.4 per cent. of extraneous water.	Producer cautioned.
2.	Milk	11.6 per cent. deficient in fat.	Retailer cautioned. Another sample taken taken same time was genuine.
3.	Milk	7.8 per cent. deficient in non-fatty solids. "Genuine but abnormal."	No action.
4.	Milk	8.3 per cent. deficient in fat.	Seller cautioned.
5.	Lemon Curd	27.5 per cent. deficient in fat.	Liverpool manufacturer cautioned.
6.	Milk	2.3 per cent. deficient in non-fatty solids. "Genuine but abnormal."	No action.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

I beg to furnish under the respective headings details of the work carried out by the Department relative to the Sanitary Circumstances and Inspection of the District.

The work of the Department is increasing each year and the need is now well established for the appointment of a further Inspector.

EMLYN TUFT.
PART ONE

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS		Result of Service of Notices and Number served.				
Nature of Inspections		Number.	Formal.	Informal.	Complied with.	Remaining in hand.
Dwelling Houses (General)		265	45	265	245	20
Dwelling Houses (Housing Act, 1936)		3	—	3	3	—
Revisits to work in progress		1785	—	—	—	—
Schools		6	—	3	—	3
Tents, Vans, Sheds, Caravans		54	—	22	22	—
Back Yards		413	1	413	412	1
Privies, Cesspools, Septic Tanks, etc.		14	—	3	2	1
Drainage: Inspections		84	—	27	27	—
Tests		2	—	—	—	—
Ditches, Watercourses		24	—	4	3	1
Offensive Accumulations		15	—	2	2	—
Keeping of Animals		11	—	5	5	—
Food Premises		1151	—	154	104	50
Factories: Mechanical		27	—	2	2	—
Non-Mechanical		—	—	—	—	—
Piggeries		10	—	5	5	—
Dairies & Milk Distributors		83	—	2	2	—
Smoke Observations		2	—	1	—	1
Canal Boats		15	7	—	1	6
Infectious Diseases: Enquiries		78	—	—	—	—
Other Visits		14	—	—	—	—
Disinfections		91	—	—	—	—
Verminous Premises: Inspections		181	—	57	57	—
Disinfestations		107	—	—	—	—
Rat Infestations		214	—	214	214	—
Samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination:—						
Milk		104	—	—	—	—
Rinse Water (Catering Establishments)		35	—	—	—	—
Ice-Cream		69	—	—	—	—
Other Foods		1	—	—	—	—
Swimming Pool Water		5	—	—	—	—
Shops Act		328	—	65	65	—
Reference to other Departments and Miscellaneous Visits		363	—	6	6	—
Interviews		488	—	—	—	—
Refuse disposal site		19	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding: Enquiries		225	—	—	—	—
Other Visits		48	—	—	—	—
Former Military Camps		21	—	15	15	—
TOTALS:		6355	53	1268	1192	83

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT AND HOUSING ACT, 1936.

In 15 instances, warning letters were sent by the Clerk of the Council to the owners concerned, in respect of the non-compliance with Abatement Notices served upon them under the Public Health Act, 1936, prior to any legal proceedings being taken. Eight of the Notices were complied with satisfactorily without any further action being made. In the remaining seven cases legal proceedings were instituted as follows :—

17, 19 and 63 Crescent Road, Ellesmere Port—Nuisance Orders made for the requirements of the Abatement Notices to be completed within eight weeks of the date of the Orders.

Work was completed by the owner within the period specified.

17, 21, 23, 25 and 27 Merseyton Road, Ellesmere Port — Nuisance Orders made for the requirements of the Abatement Notices to be completed within two months of the date of the Order.

The Orders were not complied with by the Owner and the Local Authority in exercise of their powers, and by arrangement with the owner arranged to abate the nuisances at his expense.

Forms of specification were prepared and tenders invited. The lowest tender was accepted, being that of the Direct Labour Section of the Council's Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

A Statutory Notice was served requiring the provision of a dust bin to a dwelling house. The owner, upon whom the Notice was served, appealed to the Court of Summary Jurisdiction against the requirement of the Notice. The appeal was upheld at the subsequent Court Proceedings.

In the light of this case decision, the Council agreed to exercise their powers whereby the Local Authority provide a dust bin and make an annual charge of 5/- upon the premises. This to be only carried out in those instances where an Informal Notice was not complied with.

At the time of writing this Report, the new arrangement is working satisfactorily and no objections have been received.

A great amount of housing repair work has been carried out to domestic property during the year upon the service of Sanitary Notices, in spite of the various difficulties encountered. The work completed in this direction must be in the region of several thousand pounds, and is carried out in the main without recourse to legal action.

Certificates have been issued to local builders in support of their applications for controlled material, in order to enable them to carry out essential repairs to domestic property.

Statutory Notices were served upon the owners of a block of sixteen cottages and four cottages respectively, in respect of insufficient water supply. In the former instance, the work was carried out by the Council in exercise of default powers, and the cost recovered from the owner of the property. The work was completed by the owner in respect of the second case and no further action was necessary.

Housing conditions still continue to be a major problem and in connection with overcrowding 225 written complaints were received as against 205 the previous year. This indicates in itself that the problem of rehousing has deteriorated.

Each complaint of overcrowding is carefully examined and reported upon to the Housing (Lettings) Sub-Committee for their consideration, together with a report and recommendations. The number of houses allocated to this type of case is not considered sufficient.

A small motor van was obtained during the early part of the year for the sole use of the Department. This without doubt has proved to be invaluable.

Detailed reports were presented to the Health Committee in respect of the general condition of six dwellings. In three instances, the dwellings were demolished and one family rehoused by the Local Authority, the remaining two families providing their own alternative accommodation. In two cases (one pending) the Local Authority rehoused and the premises were partially demolished, and in the remaining case, an undertaking was received from the owner, which was accepted by the Council, and the sub-tenant was rehoused.

In compliance with Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, four applications were received for licences to erect or station and use moveable dwellings for human habitation. Two licences were issued and in each instance were made, subject to certain sanitary conditions being observed as set out in the licence. The remaining two were refused.

With the co-operation of the Owner of the land concerned, ten caravans used for habitation by various occupants were removed from a former fair-ground site and taken out of the area. This co-operation was greatly appreciated, resulting in the clearing of a site which was tending to become a nuisance as well as an eye-sore.

During the year 656 dust bins were supplied and delivered to premises, including Council houses. Several were subject to an annual charge.

In addition to letters received requesting an inspection of premises 750 verbal complaints were given at the office. This was approximately an increase of 200 over the previous year's figure.

CAMPS.

Two of the three former military camps in the District previously used for human habitation, were closed down during the year leaving the one camp in the Parish of Ince still in use.

This camp affords accommodation for 33 families and whilst it is a better site than those previously in use it is nevertheless sub-standard. Each hut has been converted to comprise two and three bedroom units, with kitchen and scullery combined. An outside wash-house is also provided.

The layout of the huts do not lend themselves to afford the necessary privacy and amenities which a family require, and it is earnestly hoped that this remaining site will be dispensed with as soon as circumstances permit.

A problem family living under hutted accommodation maintain a lower standard of personal environment than if residing in a house.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The number of houses found to be infested during the year was :—

(a) Council Houses	11
(b) Other Houses	20
(c) Number Disinfested	31
(d) Total visits	40

The number of houses treated shew a slight increase over the previous year's figure. There still remain a number of individual cases where the standard of cleanliness is unsatisfactory.

All infested houses were treated with liquid and powder form of D.D.T., with satisfactory results. It is not generally considered now necessary to have wood-work removed in the bedrooms to facilitate disinfestation, due to the effective delayed action of D.D.T.

The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority, through the staff of the Sanitary Department.

DRAINS AND SEWERAGE.

There are two sewage disposal works in the District. The works at Little Stanney were erected during the year 1933, and designed for a population of 20,000; whilst the disposal works at Sunnyside Pontoon, known as the Town Works, were reconstructed and designed for a population of 7,000. An area is still drained under the Manchester Ship Canal to the River Mersey without treatment.

The scheme proposed by Mr. A. H. S. Waters, M.Inst., C.E., the Council's Consulting Engineer, in consultation with the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, to provide sewers and sewage disposal works for the Parish of Ince is still under consideration.

The following lengths of new sewers were laid in the District during the year :—

Foul water sewers	7,593 lineal yards
Surface water sewers ...	7,808 lineal yards
<hr/>	
Total...	15,401 lineal yards
<hr/>	

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The small River Gowy is within the Urban District and is bordered by oil works along its entire length in this District. It is tide-locked where it is syphoned below the Manchester Ship Canal to discharge into the River Mersey.

A great deal of pollution is evident due to trade effluences from neighbouring industries.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The greater part of the District is provided with clean water closets, but on the outskirts of the town where sewers are not available, some pails, privies, cesspools and septic tanks are in use.

Several septic tank and filter bed installations have been reconstructed on action taken by the Department during the year.

As a result of the survey carried out during the previous year in the Parish of Ince, relative to the cleansing of pail-closets, a service is now in operation under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department, whereby regular cleansing is carried out.

SWIMMING POOL.

The Rivacre Swimming Pool is owned by the Council and has a swimming area of 1,567 square yards.

The water passes through a continuous bath purification plant which embodies two horizontal air-scoured pressure filters with a circulation pump capable of circulating the total contents of the Pool in a period of eight hours.

New chlorination plant was installed during the year 1949 and this has proved to be highly satisfactory.

Samples of water are taken at regular intervals.

SCHOOLS.

There are three Council Secondary Schools, nine Council Primary Schools and four Denominational Schools in the District.

All the schools are supplied with piped water from the West Cheshire Water Board's mains.

The Head Teachers of the various schools are immediately notified on occurrence of cases of Infectious Disease in order to secure the exclusion of the contacts for the necessary period.

During the vacation, and at other times when found necessary, the schools are thoroughly disinfected.

CANAL BOATS.

Fifteen boats were inspected during the year and these were registered to carry 32 adults and 35 children.

The actual number found to be in occupation was 22 adults and 20 children.

Seven Statutory Notices were served and six remained in hand at the close of the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

1. Inspections.

Premises. (1)	M/c Line. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of			M/c Line. (7)
			Inspec- tions. (4)	Notices Written. (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	12	—	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	99	24	1	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	3	3	3	1	—	3
TOTAL ...		114	27	2	—	

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars. (1)	M/c Line. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted. (7)	M/c Line. (8)
		Found. (3)	Remedied. (4)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (5)	by H.M. Inspector. (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2.)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.).	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	9	2	2	—	—	—	9
(a) Insufficient	10	3	1	—	—	—	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes ...							
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL ...	60	5	3	—	—	—	60

HOUSING

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) | 268 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 1,785 |
| 2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932... .. | 3 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 15 |
| 3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... .. | 3 |
| 4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 95 |

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their Officers	50
--	----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice | Nil |

(a) By Owners	... ..	Nil
(b) By Local Authority	... ..	Nil
B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied...	... ..	45
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice :—		
(a) By Owners	... ..	32
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		5
(c) Remaining in hand	... ..	8
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	... ..	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	... ..	Nil
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ..	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined but tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Food Premises : Seven applications for registration of food premises were received during the year under review. All related to the sale of ice-cream and with one exception, licences were issued.

In the case of the refusal, the premises were not considered satisfactory. The requisite notice was served upon the applicant stating time and place at which consideration would be given to the matter and that the person concerned could appear before the Committee. In the meantime, however, the applicant ceased to carry on the business and no further action was taken.

There are now ninety premises in the district registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act.

In May of the year, byelaws relating to the handling, wrapping and delivery, and sale of food in the open air came into operation. The byelaws adopted, were on similar lines as the Model Series Number One issued by the Ministry of Food, although recommendations put forward to the Health Committee, adopted by them, and confirmed by the Council for incorporation in the Model, were refused by the Ministry.

With the aim of securing the closest co-operation of the various food trades and organisations in the implementation of the byelaws and with the idea of formulating other proposals to strengthen the existing series, a plan of campaign was presented to the Health Committee for their consideration. This consisted in the main of convening a meeting with the object of the formation of a joint consultative committee to comprise several members of the Health Committee and representatives from all food trades and organisations. This was duly agreed upon and terms of reference granted.

The response by the trade to this innovation was very good, and a representative committee was formed from the various organisations, together with a Trade Union member, consisting altogether of fifteen members.

This step taken has certainly been in the right direction and to date real progress has been made. The title of the Committee was decided upon as being "Clean Food Joint Consultative Committee," the byelaws considered in detail and a definite standard laid down upon each of the requirements or sections. Whilst it may be difficult to legally enforce some of the measures agreed upon, it nevertheless must be remembered that when such have been decided by a representative body of the traders, then in practice little difficulty is encountered.

Minutes of the various meetings were compiled, approved and confirmed and it is to the credit of the various members, that in only one instance was a recommendation not finally agreed upon, namely the wearing of head-covers by females, although in effect several are in use; in one or two of the trades. The difficulties as expressed by members of the Committee are still under consideration and no doubt will be removed in the near future.

A code of hygiene rules was prepared for exhibition in shops and distributed to all traders together with a notice requesting the public to refrain from taking dogs into food premises. Publicity has also been given to the work of the Committee through the courtesy of the local Press.

A great deal of work still remains to be carried out, and improvements in many respects cannot be achieved overnight. It has been found that in a number of instances structural alterations are required in order to ensure compliance with the byelaws. Many shops give the impression of being too small for the purposes of the trade carried on and is due it is believed to the amount of stock that has to be carried by the trader.

It was found necessary to institute legal proceedings against a street trader for non-compliance with the food byelaws. The case was heard at the Magistrates' Court, Ellesmere Port, and defendant was fined £3 and costs.

These types of traders from outside the area tend to be a nuisance and do not uphold a good standard of hygiene. Legislation should be stronger in this direction.

In connection with ice-cream there are two premises in the district manufacturing by the hot mix method. Conditions at both places are satisfactory.

Sixty-nine samples of ice-cream were taken for examination from all dealers and manufacturers during the year. This sampling is carried out on a rota basis whereby each trader is visited at irregular intervals.

Of the sixty-nine samples obtained and examined in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry, sixty-four were placed in Grade 1, three in Grade 2 and two in Grade 3 and none in Grade 4. This is considered very satisfactory.

Attention has been paid to itinerant ice-cream dealers in order to see that their vehicles are up to standard in accordance with the code of practice now in operation.

A little attention has also been given in respect of obtaining samples of "washing-up" water for bacteriological examination from food premises. Of thirty-five samples so taken, twenty-four were not satisfactory.

It is quite apparent that this branch of our work requires to be more thoroughly dealt with, and it is regretted that more progress has not been made during the year. There was however, a survey made of the school canteens and certain recommendations made which are at present receiving attention by the Medical Officer of Health with the County Authority.

Fifty-two special visits were paid to food premises at the request of the Owners and the following foods were rejected:—

113 tins Meat.	6 tins Vegetables.	1 tin Coffee.
281 tins Milk.	5 tins Meat and	2 tins Bournvita.
64 tins Fish.	Fish Pastes.	13 tins Jam.
77 tins Fruit.	5 tins Meat and	8 tins Marmalade.
57 tins Peas.	Gravy.	1 tin Friut Pudding.
9 tins Beans.	3 tins Spaghetti.	4 tins Syrup.
9 tins Soup.	97 tins Tomatoes.	1 tin Tomato Juice.

— Blown, damaged and leaky tins.

6 bottles Tomato Sauce.	17 jars Pickles.	14 boxes Cheese (8ozs).
44 bottles Mayonnaise.	35 boxes Tomatoes.	52lbs. Sandwich Cake.
3 bottles Coffee.	8 stone Fish.	30lbs. Dates.
11 packets Pom.	27lbs. Beef and trimmings.	6 packets Dates (8ozs).
2 tins Barley Crystals.	16lbs. Lamb.	1lb. Prunes.
3 packets Ryvita.	33lbs. Figs.	9 blocks Chocolate.
		1 packet Suet.

— Unfit for Human Consumption.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 14 registered dairies and 15 distributors in the district. In addition, 14 distributors bring milk into the district from outside the area as well as two registered wholesalers.

The work of milk sampling is carried out on a rota basis on the lines as mentioned in the previous year's report.

104 samples were obtained and sent to the bacteriologist for examination, each being examined in accordance with the designation applicable to the sample.

Of the 40 samples examined for Tuberculosis, one was returned positive. Ninety-nine samples were examined on the standard of cleanliness and the keeping quality of the milk and 93 were satisfactory. This is an improvement and should be maintained.

Fifty-four Dealers' Licences and six Supplementary Licences were issued by the Local Authority under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.

It is pleasing to report that an increasing number of retailers obtain their supplies already bottled which is considered as being a progressive step.

PART THREE

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

With the coming into operation of the Preventive of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Council ceased to operate delegated powers from the County Council. This new legislation places increased responsibilities upon the Local Authority who now have power to deal with the destruction of rats and mice on agricultural as well as non-agricultural land.

Two rodent operatives are employed together with a charge-hand whose part-time services are chargeable to rodent control. To meet the new commitments, the staff requires to be increased and a further operative obtained. The Health Committee and the Council have agreed to this and at the time of writing this Report arrangements are in being to fill the vacancy.

Co-operation from all occupiers of property, particularly industrial premises has been maintained resulting in the work being carried out without friction. A number of annual contracts are in operation.

A free service is granted by the Council to occupiers of domestic property to clear any rat infestation.

The Council are members of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Workable Area Committee No. 22. Meetings are usually held at Birkenhead with the Divisional Rodent Officer of the Ministry in attendance.

The Committee is well represented from the various authorities and much useful information is discussed.

3,207 inspections were carried out by the rodent operatives with 400 poisoning campaigns undertaken. The total amount of "poison take," i.e. poison and bait combined, on all campaigns was Zinc Phosphide 46lbs. 6ozs.; Arsenic 2lbs. 13ozs.; Red Squill 4lbs. In addition five treatments have been given with Cymag Gas.

A formula prepared by the Ministry for the calculation of the estimated kill of the common rat when Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic are used shews that in respect of these two poisons used in campaigns, a total kill of 1,962 is arrived at for the year.

The number of bodies actually picked up were 492 rats and 532 mice.

A test baiting of 10 per cent. of sewer manholes in the entire district were baited and "no takes" recorded in each instance. This was satisfactory and a certificate was issued by the Divisional Rodent Officer exempting the Council from undertaking any further action in the treatment of sewers during the financial year ending 31st March, 1951.

LIST OF LOCAL OR ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, ORDERS OR REGULATIONS IN FORCE, (so far as unrepealed) IN THE URBAN DISTRICT.

Subject matter.	Authority by whom made.	Area in which in force.	Date.	Date of confirmation.
Ellesmere Port and Whitby Urban District Council Act, 1914.				
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	...	...	...	Adopted 1902
Private Street Works Act, 1892	...	...	...	Adopted 1902
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 (Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5)	...	...	...	Adopted 1902
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 (Parts 2, 4 and 6)	...	...	...	Adopted 1909
Public Libraries Act, 1892	...	...	...	Adopted 1907
Order declaring certain trades to be offensive within the district	...	...	...	Adopted 1911
Public Health Acts, 1925 (Parts 2, except Section 20)	...	...	...	Adopted 1937
Libraries	Ellesmere Port U.D.C.	Whole Area	30/11/1936	...
Pleasure Grounds	ditto.	ditto.	25/ 1/1937	...
New Streets and Buildings	Ellesmere Port & Whitby U.D.C.	Parishes of Ellesmere Port and Great Stanney	...	...
T e n t s, Vans and similar Structures	Wirral Rural District Council.	Parishes of Great Sutton, Little Sutton and Hooton	26/10/1925	...
†Omnibuses	ditto.	ditto.	19/ 2/1923	...
Offensive Trades	ditto.	ditto.	19/11/1923	...
Buildings	ditto.	ditto.	17/11/1924	...
Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cess-pools ... ..	...	...	17/11/1924	...
Building Byelaws	Chester Rural District Council.	Parish of Ince	28/ 2/1923	...
Handling, Wrapping and de-livery and sale of food in the open air	Ellesmere Port U.D.C.	Whole Urban Area	29/ 1/1940	...
	ditto.	ditto.	29/12/1949	...

† These were in effect repealed by Section 122 and the 5th Schedule to the Road Traffic Act, 1930, which repeals the Town Police Clauses Act, 1889, so far as it related to public service vehicles.

Annual Report on Health Services of Ellesmere Port Division for Year 1950

INTRODUCTION

The Committee has held eleven meetings during the year, the average attendance being sixteen members out of a total membership of thirty-seven.

The Division comprises the Ellesmere Port and Hoole Urban Districts and Chester and Tarvin Rural Districts. The estimated mid-year civilian population is 75,192 (the total civilian and military population is 79,882) and the area is 116,086 acres, which is equivalent of 0.64 persons per acre. The number of inhabited houses is 20,473, and the combined rateable value is £470,949.

During the year there has been a general development and expansion of the services administered by the Divisional Committee. Sites have been chosen for the construction of new Welfare Centres at Great Sutton and Boughton. A new Welfare Centre was opened in October at the Community Centre at Overpool, and efforts have been made to find suitable accommodation for a Clinic at Ince.

The two Day Nurseries continue to fulfil a useful and necessary purpose in the industrial part of the Division, in spite of increasing costs of maintenance.

Demands on the Ambulance Service have been much greater than in the previous year; this is shewn in the number of calls and the increased mileage. The Service has operated with a minimum strength of vehicles and personnel, and has necessitated much overtime to meet these demands and maintain the vehicles in a serviceable condition. There is need for an additional ambulance with driver and attendant to cope with existing commitments; and more adequate depot accommodation for vehicles and personnel is required.

Prevention, Care and After-Care of Tuberculosis continues to cause much anxiety in the face of present difficulties of overcrowding, housing shortages and limited hospital and sanatorium accommodation, and will do so as long as these conditions remain. A decisive step forward in the control of this scourge has been made in the development of Mass Radiography and B.C.G. Vaccination, which promises well for the future.

The problem of the aged and chronic sick shows little sign of improvement in relation to limited hospital and hostel accommodation; though the increasing use of the Domestic Help Service in these cases has proved a great help in alleviating the distress of caring for these chronic cases in their own homes. Indeed, the great expansion of the Domestic Help Service has been largely due to the needs of the aged and chronic sick. This is a costly service, as the majority of cases are not able to pay the full amount required to meet the costs. Efforts have been made in the Division to keep these costs at a minimum level by care in the selection of cases and hours worked. Furthermore, it has been found that the employment of temporary domestic helps, which are fortunately available in this area, are more economical than the appointment of permanent domestic helps.

Opportunity has been sought during the year on suitable occasions to exhibit posters and distribute leaflets on various aspects of Health Education at clinics, public libraries, baby shows, etc. In addition, addresses have been given by the Divisional Medical Officer on the scope and functions of the National Health Service to the Ellesmere Port Townswomen's Guild and the Hoole Old People's Welfare Committee.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Ellesmere Port Divisional Health Committee

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

N.H.S. Act, 1946 (SECTION 22)—
CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

A—MOTHERS' CLINICS:

	New Cases	Total Attendances
Ante-Natal	428	2,528
Post-Natal	47	60
Dental:—		
Pre-Natal	10	16
Nursing Mothers	7	23
Dentures Supplied		12

B—YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS:

	New Cases	Total Attendances
(1) Infant Welfare—		
To 1 year	871	8,218
1 — 5 years	1,331	4,234
(2) Specialist—		
Ophthalmic	53	182
Dental Treatment (Under 5)	63	73
E.N.T. (Under 5)	45	50
	Daily Average No. Attending.	Total Attendances.
(3) Day Nurseries—		
Age 0—2 years	14	3,497
Aged 2—5 years	50	12,763

Details of figures given below (where they relate to more than one Clinic) are shown hereunder:—

	New Cases	Total Attendances
Eye Clinics:		
Hoole	20	44
Ellesmere Port	33	138
	<hr/> 53	<hr/> 182

Number of children under five for whom
spectacles were prescribed 19

Number of cases recommended for
hospital treatment 2

Ante and Post Natal Clinics:

Hoole—		
Ante-Natal	35	108
Post-Natal	47	60
Ellesmere Port—		
Ante-Natal	393	2,420
Post-Natal	—	—

Daily
Average No. Total
Attending. Attendances.

Day Nurseries:

Ellesmere Port—		
Aged 0—2 years	10	2,500
Aged 2—5 years	25	6,521
Little Sutton—		
Aged 0—2 years	4	997
Aged 2—5 years	25	6,242

	New Cases.		Total Attendances.	
	0—1	1—5	0—1	1—5
Welfare Centres:				
Barrow	13	2	131	106
Ellesmere Port ...	361	1,263	2,658	2,063
Farndon	35	5	291	97
Hoole	133	17	1,353	290
Huntington	28	8	197	194
Kelsall	38	6	341	331
Little Sutton	102	2	1,485	262
Malpas	32	2	237	118
Saughall	26	5	257	135
Upton	45	8	710	248
Tattenhall	24	6	247	216
Tarvin	20	1	274	155
Overpool (a)	14	6	37	19
Totals:	871	1,331	8,218	4,234

(a) Opened 19.10.50.

SPECIAL COMMENTS.

WELFARE CENTRES.

There have been few new developments during the year, but a number of improvements have been carried out at the Ellesmere Port and Little Sutton Centres. The latter was transferred, as a temporary measure, from the Railway Inn to more suitable accommodation at the Methodist Hall, Little Sutton, on 1st May, 1950.

At Ellesmere Port the recommendations of the Committee with regard to the Storeroom and the internal and external decorations were implemented. In addition, new curtains have been provided and the pram shelter has been converted into a lock-up shed. New gates and railings were erected to replace those removed during World War 11 and to provide a measure of protection for the property.

A new Centre was opened at Overpool on 19th October, 1950.

Recommendations for the opening of Centres at Mouldsworth, Tilston and Ince were investigated but were not proceeded with due to an insufficient demand in the first two cases and lack of accommodation in the third.

A site was chosen for the proposed Great Boughton Centre, and the Chester Rural District Council have agreed to make it available. Negotiations for the purchase of the site were put in hand and the plans for the Centre approved by the Committee.

In order that there should be no hitch in the proposals for the new Welfare Centre at Great Sutton, and in view of possible unwillingness on the part of the owners of the site to negotiate a sale, it was recommended that the County Council acquire the land by means of compulsory powers.

DAY NURSERIES.

The appearance of the Nurseries has undergone a pleasing change during the year with the completion of the various repairs, internal decorations and external painting.

The charges for attendance of children at the Nurseries were increased twice during the year; from 1s. 0d. to 1s. 6d. per day from 27th February, and again to 2s. 0d. per day with effect from 4th December, due to the increasing costs of maintenance, etc.

Two burglaries took place at Ellesmere Port Nursery during the year, but nothing was taken on either occasion.

Epidemics of Measles, Whooping Cough and Influenzal Colds reduced attendance figures at both Nurseries at various times during the year, but generally speaking attendances were quite good.

Mrs. S. Hunt resigned as Matron of the Little Sutton Nursery and Mrs. M. J. Broomfield was appointed as from 1st May, 1950.

At the request of the Ministry of Labour, Ellesmere Port, arrangements were made for longer opening hours at Little Sutton. This new arrangement commenced in August and is still in operation. As a result approximately ten Ellesmere Port children are attending the Nursery at Little Sutton.

With the improvements effected in the Nurseries, consent has now been given by the Ministry of Health for the use of the Ellesmere Port Nursery as a training Nursery for children 0—2 years. It was, therefore, decided by the Divisional Committee to recommend the adoption, by the County Health Committee, of the principle of the appointment of a Certified Nursery Nurse in place of a Probationer.

The Committee continually expressed their concern during the year at the high costs of the Nurseries, and, in an endeavour to reduce expenses, appointed a Ladies' Sub-Committee to go into the question. On investigation reductions in the costs of feeding did not appear possible in view of the recommendations of the Ministry of Health's Dietician. A request, however, was addressed to both Matrons to keep a very careful watch on costs.

The Committee's concern was underlined by a report submitted by the County Treasurer on Expenditure on Day Nurseries throughout the Administrative County during the financial year 1949/50.

(SECTION 23).

MIDWIVES

- A. Number of births... ... 1,583 (including 25 Stillbirths).
(Adjusted for inward and outward transfers).
- B. Accommodation and Maintenance Nothing to report.
- C. Transport Nothing to report.

(SECTION 25).

HOME NURSING

Authority for some household equipment and an extensive programme of repairs and decorations were recommended for the District Nurse's home at Mouldsworth. Elsewhere in the Division some minor repairs and replacements were put in hand.

Several County owned cars used by District Nurse Midwives were overhauled and recommendations were made for the replacement of two new cars. One new car has been delivered.

LOANS OF NURSING REQUISITES.

All the District Nurses possess common items of nursing equipment, which are available for loan to patients. The larger items of equipment, i.e. wheelchairs, air beds, etc., are obtainable from the Divisional Office through the District Nurse or by direct application to the office.

Considerable and increasing use is being made of this service by the public.

(SECTION 26).

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

With the conclusion of successful negotiations relating to fees, between the British Medical Association and the Ministry of Health, a boost has been given to vaccination and immunisation in the Divisional area. Fees have been paid up to 31st December, 1950.

The scheme continues to operate through the General Practitioner; in addition sessions are held at Ellesmere Port and Little Sutton monthly, at which the local doctors attend by rota, in order that groups of children, whose attendance has mainly been secured by the Health Visitors, may be inoculated.

Total Fees paid for the period 5th July, 1948 to 30th June, 1950, amounted to £544.5s.0d.

Statistics are as follows:—

A. VACCINATION.

I. Primary Vaccination—

	Males	Females	Total
(1) Pre-School Children	283	247	530
(2) School Children	17	20	37
(3) Adults	11	26	37
Total:	311	293	604

II. Re-Vaccination—

(1) Pre-School Children	1	—	1
(2) School Children	4	8	12
(3) Adults	73	152	225
Total:	78	160	238

B. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Incomplete.

	Males	Females	Total
(1) Pre-School Children	34	29	63
(2) School Children	2	1	3
Total:	36	30	66

Completed.

	Males	Females	Total
(1) Pre-School Children	325	371	696
(2) School Children	10	5	15
Total:	335	376	711

Re-Immunisation.

All Children	48	62	110
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C. OTHER IMMUNISATION (e.g. WHOOPING COUGH).

	Males	Females	Total
(1) Pre-School Children	28	46	74
(2) School Children	3	—	3
	—	—	—
Total:	31	46	77
	—	—	—

These figures are not final as records are still being received for services performed during 1950.

(SECTION 27).

AMBULANCE SERVICES

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	No. of Vehicles.	Total No. of Journeys.	Total No. of Patients Carried.	No. of Accident & Emergency Journeys, inc. in Column 3.	Total Mileage.
A. Directly Provided—					
Ambulances ...	3	3,212 (6) †	4,869 (6) †	564	51,193 (160) †
Cars	2	2,204 (1) †	3,418 (1) †	26	47,502 (16) †
B. By Agency—					
Ambulances ...	5	801	801	165	14,172
Cars	—	—	—	—	—
(Chester City Ambulance).					
C. Supplementary—					
Ambulances ...	—	—	—	—	—
Cars	—	1,071	1,193	—	21,810
(W.V.S. Taxi. etc.).					
D. No. of Drivers (other than Commercial) available for Supplementary Services, included in "C" above					10
† Journeys performed on behalf of other local Health Authorities.					

It will be observed from the table set out above that mileage performed by vehicles of the Divisional Ambulance Service has increased considerably during the past year, viz:

	Mileage, 1949	Mileage, 1950	Total Increase
C.C.C. Ambulances	57,835	51,193	13,358
C.C.C. Cars	17,283	47,502	30,219
	—	—	—
Totals:	55,118	98,695	43,577
	—	—	—

Some of the increase is due to the operation of the National Health Service (Amendment) Act, 1949, which came into effect in the Administrative County from 1st February, 1950. These provisions placed the responsibility for the transport of patients, who are discharged from hospital within three months from the date of admission, on the Local Authority from whose area the patient was admitted.

Here again members of the Divisional Committee expressed their concern at the mounting costs of the Service, and a letter was sent in this connection to all General Practitioners within the Division. A statement of costs prepared by the County Treasurer on the operation of the Ambulance Service throughout the Administrative County revealed that a 6d. rate is now necessary to maintain the Service, whereas, prior to 5th July, 1948, it was sustained by a rate of 1½d.

Two new ambulances were delivered during the year as follows:—

Date of Delivery.	Make.	Reg. No.	H.P.
9th October, 1950	Commer	MMB.281	27
27th March, 1950	Humber	MLG.928	27
(Transferred from Deeside Division).			

The Humber replaced Austin Ambulance LG.3643, which was handed over to the County Civil Defence Authorities for use as a mobile gas demonstration chamber.

A County Committee, which included Divisional representatives, was formed to consider the standardisation of uniforms throughout the County. As a result of its findings, recommendations were made for the purchase of new uniforms for personnel in this Division at a cost of £130.

A complaint made by the Ellesmere Port Medical Practitioners relating to certain aspects of the Ambulance Services of this Division resulted in a Sub-Committee being formed to investigate present arrangements within the Division in this and other connections. An interim report was submitted to the Main Committee, when a further three members were appointed to the Sub-Committee in order to investigate more fully the Services provided.

Unsuccessful efforts were made early in the year by two Committee Members to replace the present Ford Sitting Case Car with a larger and more suitable type of vehicle. A resolution of the Committee has now been passed asking the County Health Committee to effect replacement, and for the Ford Car to be transferred to a District Nurse or County Midwife.

At a Meeting held on the 5th January, 1950, dealing with future planning in the Ellesmere Port Urban District, with regard to the Services provided by the Local Health Authority, consideration was given to a proposal for the erection of a permanent Ambulance Depot. This matter is at present under review by the Sub-Committee referred to above.

The establishment of vehicles and personnel as fixed by the Divisional Committee and approved by the County Staffing Committee is as follows:—

VEHICLES :

Ambulances	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sitting Case Cars	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							—
							5
							—

VEHICLES :

Senior Driver	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ambulance Drivers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ambulance Attendants	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sitting Case Car Drivers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Part-Time Drivers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							—
							10
							—

(SECTION 28).

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS — CARE AND AFTER-CARE —
TUBERCULOSIS.

A. Number of Cases investigated in Division:—

(1) TUBERCULOSIS—

(a)	Number of forms C. & A.C.4 completed (Primary Investigation).	186
(b)	Number of forms C. & A.C.22 completed (Follow-up Visits).	129
(c)	Number of Cases where Patient has been found to have	
	(a) Removed from area	—
	(b) Been lost sight of	—
	(c) Been cured, etc.	82
(2)	OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS	21

All cases of chronic illness awaiting admission to chronic wards or Institutions are now visited regularly by Health Visitors until admission is effected.

Several cases were investigated by the Divisional Medical Officer and one was found suitable for Part III accommodation.

B. Number of cases placed in employment (Disabled Persons Acts) Nil

C. Particulars of loans of nursing equipment, charges made and details of applicants unable to pay full amount:—

One case was brought to the attention of the Committee of a person unable to meet deposit and rental charges in connection with the loan of a Dunlopillo Mattress. It was decided to ask a nominal deposit of 1/-d. and to waive the rental charges.

A Tuberculosis Care and After-Care Sub-Committee was formed in January, 1950, in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and after due consideration it was decided that Meetings of the Sub-Committee should be held as and when considered necessary.

A shelter has been provided for a patient in the Division, and repairs carried out on the Shelter used by another patient.

The No. 3 Mass Radiography Unit visited the Ellesmere Port District from 17th April, 1950, for three months, providing a valuable aid in connection with Prevention, Care and After-Care in this Division.

Two cases have received convalescent treatment during the year, under the County Council Scheme; one a child suffering from malnutrition and the other an old lady who was recovering from an illness.

Members of the Committee and officials visited the Wrenbury Tuberculosis Colony on 12th July, 1950. The excellent work being carried out at this establishment was very highly commended by the Committee.

Supplies of sputum mugs and flasks are held at the Divisional Office and at Ellesmere Port Child Welfare Centre for loan free of charge to suitable cases.

Statistics relating to Tuberculous Cases on the Notification Register are given on the following page.

STATISTICS RELATING TO CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON NOTIFICATION REGISTERS OF DISTRICT COUNCILS IN THE DIVISION.

	MALES			FEMALES			TOTALS		
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary	Total Cases
1. Cases on Register at 1.1.50	154	97	251	134	74	208	288	171	459
2. Cases notified and transfers into area during year.	44	5	49	37	8	45	81	13	94
3. Number of cases removed from register during year.	31	25	56	11	15	26	42	40	82
4. Cases on Register at 31.12.50	167	77	244	160	67	227	327	144	471†

† This figure is made up as follows:—

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1. Ellesmere Port U.D.	161	69	230
2. Hoole U.D.	38	9	47
3. Chester R.D.	69	28	97
4. Tarvin R.D.	59	38	97
Totals:	327	144	471

(SECTION 29).

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

There has been an increasing demand on this service during the year as it has become more widely known to members of the public. This has resulted in a rise in costs despite all efforts to economise.

Various suggestions have been circulated to Health Visitors in an endeavour to keep costs to a minimum and still maintain efficiency. A Statement prepared by the County Treasurer of expenditure during the financial year 1949/50 shows that if temporary, rather than permanent, helps can be employed, then costs can be kept within bounds.

As a result of a suggestion by the County Treasurer an attempt was made to persuade the National Assistance Board to make a small contribution towards the cost of cases where no contributions were being received. This met with some initial success, but, due to causes unknown, the arrangement has broken down, and negotiations are now proceeding between the County Treasurer and the National Assistance Board with a view to regularising the position.

Contributions received during the period 1st January—31st December, 1950, amounted to £971.7s.0d.

A. Number of New Applicants ... 177

B. Number of Domestic Helps
working:—

(a) Permanent ... 1

(b) Temporary ... 118

C. Number of Cases attended... 180

D. Special Cases for report ... 24

Twenty-four cases were brought to the attention of the Committee during the year. In fifteen cases the contribution was reduced; in five cases no contribution was required; contributions outstanding in two cases, amounting to £1. 5s. 4d., were written off as irrecoverable; no reduction was made in one case and in the other payment was pressed for and the amount in question was eventually recovered.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — PART III.

During the year I carried out my usual visits to Shotwick House, Great Saughall, in my capacity as the representative of the County Medical Officer of Health. On the first occasion, in June, Members of the Divisional Committee also attended; a visit which was enjoyed by all present, and a subsequent resolution of the Committee to the County Council expressed the Members' appreciation of all that is being done for the comfort, happiness, and well being of the residents.

Several changes have occurred in the past year amongst the residents at Shotwick House, but, nevertheless, it is still fully occupied with sixty-two old people, and a waiting list continues to be maintained.

LAYING OUT OF DECEASED PERSONS.

As a result of a resolution of this Committee, representations were made to the Minister of Health for action to be taken with a view to amending the National Health Service Act, 1946, to make provision for this essential service.

ESTIMATES 1951/52.

The estimates for the year 1951/52 were submitted, and the following summary was recommended to the County Health Committee for approval and inclusion in the block estimates, viz:—

	£
Vaccination and Immunisation	578
Domestic Help Service	6,283
Ambulance Service	11,228
Health Propaganda	50
Child Welfare Centres	4,561
Day Nurseries, Ellesmere Port and Little Sutton	11,813
Ante-Natal Clinic, Ellesmere Port ...	470
Home Nursing	850
Occupational Therapy	50
Convalescent Treatment for Mothers and Babies	50
Prevention of Illness, Care and After- Care	250
Administration	3,587
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Total	£39,770
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— — — — —
— “ Pioneer ” Printers, —
— Whitby Road, —
— Ellesmere Port. —
— — — — —